

bombs. But today, despite these concerns, there are no statutes which address the government's authority to offer help to other countries regarding dirty bomb threats.

I am pleased to note that the Domenici-Biden amendment to the Senate Armed Services legislation provides authorizations to enlarge the ability of the government to step into such situations. With final passage of that amendment in the Armed Services legislation, we can provide important new tools to our government.

Under that amendment, programs to address dirty bomb issues are specifically authorized, including assistance to any country requesting our aid. And of equal importance, programs to broaden our ability to address fissile material issues around the world, not just associated with the former Soviet Union, are authorized along with new approaches to speed up the conversion of highly enriched uranium to material unusable for weapons.

Even with this amendment, I am sure there will be many opportunities for private groups, like the NTI, to step in and plug gaps in Government programs. But with this amendment, we will vastly simplify future operations at the hundreds of remaining sites.

The Domenici-Biden amendment enjoyed broad support in the Senate, and I appreciate that Senators LUGAR, LANDRIEU, HAGEL, CARNAHAN, MURKOWSKI, BINGAMAN, and LINCOLN joined us in introducing it.

It is my hope that the success at Vinca, along with the sobering realization that we need to repeat this success hundreds of times to fully address the threat of proliferation of materials suitable for nuclear bombs, will encourage the Conferees from both the House and the Senate to ensure that provisions of the Domenici-Biden amendment are in the Armed Services authorization bill that will eventually emerge from Conference.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE 38TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today, I commemorate the 38th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964, which was signed into law on September 3, 1964, by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The Wilderness Act of 1964 established a National Wilderness Preservation System "to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness." The law reserves to Congress the authority to designate wilderness areas, and directs the Federal land management agencies to review the lands under their responsibility for their wilderness potential.

The original Wilderness Act established 9.1 million acres of Forest Service land in 54 wilderness areas. Now, the wilderness system is comprised of

more than a 100 million acres that are administered by four Federal agencies: the Forest Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service in the Department of the Interior.

As we in this body know well, the passage and enactment of legislation of this type is a remarkable accomplishment. It requires steady, bipartisan commitment, institutional support, and direct leadership. The United States Senate was instrumental in shaping this very important law, and this anniversary gives us the opportunity to recognize this role.

I have been very pleased to see this body return to the tradition of designating wilderness since the 35th anniversary of the act in 1999. The 106th Congress passed, and President Clinton signed, a total of eight wilderness bills adding more than 1 million acres of public land to the National Wilderness Preservation System. This is the largest number of acres of wilderness added to the system since 1994 and is a stark contrast to the 105th Congress, which did not enact any wilderness designations.

While the 107th Congress may not surpass the wilderness achievements of the 106th, there are a number of wilderness bills pending in the 107th Congress, several of which are likely to become law before the end of the year. The designation of the James Peak Wilderness in Colorado and additions to the Black Elk Wilderness in South Dakota have already been approved by Congress and signed into law by President Bush. Bills designating new wilderness areas in Washington, Nevada, and Puerto Rico are likely to move forward this fall, while others, such as those to designate wilderness in Washington State and California, may see hearings or other congressional action.

Many would agree that more must be done to protect our wild places, but much has been done already. In commemoration of anniversaries like this one, the Senate should celebrate our accomplishment, on behalf of the American people, in the protection of these wild places.●

HONORING EARLEEN ALLEN FRANCIS

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I have the privilege and honor of rising today to recognize Ms. Earleen Allen Francis of Clinton, KY. Last month, Ms. Francis was presented with a certificate of honor for her military service as an Army Nurse during WWII by the Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs.

Ms. Francis, now 91 years young, is among fewer than 20 survivors of the group of about 60 Army and Navy nurses captured by Japanese forces after the fall of Corregidor, a small fortified island in the Philippines.

In 1942, Japanese troops advanced on the Bataan peninsula. The Army and

Navy nurses stationed at Bataan were evacuated to Corregidor as a safety precaution. However, shortly after being moved, Japanese troops stormed the small island and captured 20 of the 85 nurses, including Earleen Allen Francis. For three long and grueling years, Earleen and the 19 other nurses were starved and locked up by their captors. Their freedoms were stripped from them in the blink of an eye. In many ways, Earleen never quite recovered from this horrific time period in her life.

Ms. Francis' story has been told in books and on television and she was even honored by President Reagan in 1983 for her service to America. It is important that her story continues to be told.

I believe it is vital that we as a nation never forget about heroes like Earleen Allen Francis. Sometimes, we are forced to fight and die for our freedom and the continuation of our unique way of life. Ms. Francis personally sacrificed a large portion of her life to ensure that future generations of Americans are able to enjoy the freedoms she had stripped away from her for 3 years.

Now more than ever, we must learn from the sacrifices others have made. Terrorist states and organizations around the globe are striving to take the word freedom out of America's vocabulary. These terrorists view the world in simple terms of black and white; Islam is on the good side, and the infidels—America, Israel, and the entire Western World—are on the bad side. Freedom and democracy don't always come easy. We sometimes have to fight for what we believe in and stand for.

I ask that my fellow Senators join me in honoring Earleen Allen Francis for her sacrifice and commitment to America—the land of the free.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MARIN CONSERVATION CORPS

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the achievements of the Marin Conservation Corps, MCC, the oldest local, private, non-profit conservation corps in the United States.

Twenty years ago the winter of 1982 brought severe flooding to much of Marin County. Concerned citizens led by Richard Hammond took action by going out and battling the winter storms and working to protect the neighborhoods and natural habitats that were at risk. Since I was a member of the Marin Board of Supervisors at that time, I well remember them.

From this community effort the Marin Conservation Corps was born. It identified its mission as developing the youth of Marin County by providing meaningful employment, education and training opportunities through projects that conserve natural resources, deliver human services and respond to public emergencies.

In the 20 years since its founding, more than 3,000 corps members have